

The Democratic Standard.

DEVOTED TO THE SUPPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS—THE DIFFUSION OF GENERAL INTELLIGENCE—AND THE REFORM OF ALL POLITICAL ABUSES.

BY D. P. PALMER.

GEORGETOWN, O., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1840.

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who are blind,	31
insane and idiots at public charge,	317
insane and idiots at private charge,	797
Total,	2,013
No. of persons—	
Employed in mining,	620
Do agriculture,	272,662
Do commerce,	9,186
Do manufactures and trade,	650,071
Do navigation of the ocean,	93
Do navigation of canals, lakes and rivers,	8,413
Do learned professions,	5,332
Total,	941,512

Colored persons included in the foregoing who are

Deaf and dumb,	22
Blind,	20
Insane and idiots at private charge,	52
Insane and idiots at public charge,	47
Total,	141
Total number of—	
Pensioners for revolutionary or military services,	616
Universities or Colleges,	16
Students in Universities or Colleges,	1,577
Academies and Grammar Schools,	68
Primary and Common Schools,	4,974
Scholars in Common Schools,	104,317
Scholars at public charge,	37,249
White persons over twenty years of age who cannot read & write,	31,552
Total,	217,334

RECAPITULATION.
Whole No. of free white males, 770,769
Do do white females, 714,211
Do do colored males, 8,637
Do do colored females, 8,465
Total population of Ohio, 1,515,693

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Was communicated to Congress this day; and we feel pride and satisfaction in presenting it in our columns. This is no barren compliment. The latest message of Mr. Van Buren is such as cannot fail to obtain the approbation of every honest and impartial mind. It is characterized by the frankness which has distinguished all his communications, and particularly his pointed and pregnant inaugural. That was a distinct declaration of faith, with which his administration of the Government has been in strict conformity. However opposed to the principles and measures of the President, no man can say that he has been deceived in them.

The message opens with a sincere acknowledgment to that Providence which has blessed our country with health, plenty, and peace. It proceeds to furnish a brief but comprehensive statement of our foreign relations, which it truly describes as those of honorable peace. To the clouds which lower beyond the ocean, allusion is made in the language and sentiments of humanity and patriotism, which is the true policy of our Government. It is pointed out, should the peace of the world unfortunately be disturbed.

Passing to domestic topics, the President presents a view of our financial condition, which cannot fail to surprise those who were misled by the sins or clamor which has been propagated throughout the land. After a period of unexampled embarrassment at home and abroad, the sound and improving state of our finances here presented, is the best commentary and defence of the doctrines and policy of the Republican Administration, which is drawing towards its close. The public faith has been in every instance preserved, the legal standard has been adhered to, no permanent debt has been incurred, while the floating amount is small, and with judicious management can be easily extinguished, without increasing the public burdens.

Well may the President refer with satisfaction to the firmness with which he has resisted the efforts to compel the Government to break down these bulwarks which not only secured its own honor, but served as a rallying point to the recuperative energies of the country. What would have been the consequences of yielding, no man can say.

Mr. Van Buren's opposition to a National Bank is strengthened by experience; and his warnings against the ever-growing misery of a public debt, we hope will not be given in vain. The observations which have arisen naturally from these topics, furnish an ample vindication from the charges with which his public course has been so perversely assailed. He has but to point to the result, after four years of difficulty without a parallel, for a defence of that great measure of reform which he recommends with increased confidence, and which will signalize his administration in history.

We have not time to-day to speak of the remaining subjects of the message.

The mists of prejudice will soon vanish; the clouds of passion will ere long pass away. Then will the merits of President Van Buren's administration be generally acknowledged. A calmer hour will bring with it a fairer judgment. Justice will then be done to the "plut who weathered the storm," with a mild yet firm hand, and who is moved from the helm, just as the ship is steering into a safe harbor. A great man, in dying, appealed for justice to other nations and to the next age. President Van Buren may, with greater reason, make his appeal to the world and to the future.—*Globe.*

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

OF THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OHIO,
DELIVERED TO BOTH BRANCHES OF
THE LEGISLATURE,
December 16, 1840.

**Gentlemen of the Senate,
and House of Representatives:**
Having been properly advised of my election to the office of Governor of the State, I am here, in obedience to the law, to enter upon the discharge of those duties which the Constitution and laws of Ohio devolve upon that officer.

Few and comparatively unimportant as are the duties which our Constitution has assigned to the Chief Executive Magistrate of the State, still it is obvious that an upright and faithful discharge of these is due to the interests, as well as the just expectations of the people.

Whilst I am fully impressed with that truth, so prominent in all systems of representative government, that every public functionary, chosen by the people, is but the instrument selected for the execution of those principles of government which prompt the bestowment of their suffrages upon him, yet I cannot omit the present as the most proper occasion for expressing the deep sense I entertain, of the honor which, in this instance, that selection has conferred upon me. The grateful recollection which I shall ever cherish of this distinguished testimonial of its confidence, with the interest I cannot but feel, in common with every citizen, for the advancement of the lasting prosperity and true glory of the State, will, I trust, furnish at all times adequate motives to myself, and sure guarantees to the people, for at least an honest and faithful effort, in all things falling within the constitutional limits of Executive duty. The narrow limits within which Executive power is circumscribed by the Constitution of Ohio, has been the subject of much curious speculation, of no little censure by some, and of high encomium by others. Neither the Constitution of the United States, nor those of few, if any of the States in the Union, furnish a parallel to this strongly defined feature in ours. With us the Executive has no agency whatever in the enactment of laws, except the very feeble and humble one, if agency it may be called, of "recommending" such measures as he may deem expedient. The laws, when passed through both branches of the Legislature, are not submitted for Executive approval, nor has he in any contingency a "Veto power" which, by one class of political philosophers, has been deemed essential to protect the people against a supposed hasty, impolitic, or unconstitutional action of the legislative department. Except in one or two instances of very subordinate character, the power of appointment to office by the Governor is limited to such vacancies as may occur in the recess of the Legislature; and such appointments, when made, expire, by express limitation, at the close of the next succeeding session of that body. The admirers of a strong Executive, have, in my judgment, most erroneously supposed, that a large patronage, resulting from a power of appointment to office, was a necessary branch of Executive power, in order to give stability to the government, and secure a prompt and faithful execution of the laws. The denial of this, as well as the veto power, to the Executive, by our Constitution, (forming as they do a striking peculiarity,) can probably only be rationally accounted for, by reference to the history of the times which gave it birth.

The Constitution of Ohio was formed in November, 1802, very soon after a most animated struggle between two great political parties in the United States, which had resulted in the election of Mr. Jefferson to the Presidency. Of the questions which divided the people of that day, that touching the powers and patronage of the Executive was prominent. They who favored a restricted power, and a limited Executive patronage, prevailed; and of this school (then denominated Republican) was the convention that framed our Constitution. A fearful jealousy of Executive power, with a strong conviction of the pernicious influence of Executive patronage, all will agree, are indelibly impressed upon their work; and our experience of nearly forty years, has given abundant proofs of the

wisdom which (in this respect at least) exerted its influence upon their labors. Under this system, Ohio, it is believed, has advanced, with a pace equal to any of her sister States, in the augmentation of her resources; nor in those laws and social institutions which advance the intellectual and moral condition of a people, need she fear a comparison with much older communities, governed by different organic laws. Under this Constitution, the rights of person and property have been fully protected; all the great guarantees of civil liberty have been preserved and in the vicissitudes of war and peace, the laws have in general been promptly and vigorously enforced. If occasional, and even flagrant exceptions, to this view of our history, are to be found, it will be readily seen, that they were of short duration, and had not their origin in the want of Executive power to prevent or control them. After an interval of forty years, the people of the United States have again agitated the subject of a strong or restricted Executive action in the Federal Government, and again decided it, as they did in 1800—furnishing to the citizen of Ohio another proud testimonial of the excellence, in this particular, of the Constitution under which he lives.

I advert to this subject now with no view to particular legislation, but upon the supposition that a contingency may arise when it may become the duty of the Legislature to express, in the usual way, the opinions of the State upon it, in reference to some modification of the Executive power, as defined in the Constitution of the United States.

Under our complex system of government, no subject has given rise to greater difficulty, or variety of opinion, than that of the true division of legislative power, under the Constitution, between the General Government and the States.

On all subjects of this character, prudence and patriotism alike demand, that both parties should forbear, if possible, to enter the field of conflict in pursuit of a questionable claim of jurisdiction. That spirit of concession, so powerfully operative in the formation of the Federal Constitution, should always be invoked by those, whose duty it may be, either as officers of the General or State authorities, to fix its true interpretation. When we regard, however, the inevitable tendency of power to reach after still further and more extended dominion; and when we consider the obvious advantage, which the National Government enjoys in a conflict with a single State of the Union, arising from its greater wealth and patronage, and by consequence its superior influence over public opinion, it becomes the obvious duty of the State Legislatures to watch with vigilance, and, on all questions not within the province of the judiciary, to assert, in a peaceful, yet resolute tone, the claims and powers of the weaker party.

The present financial condition of our State, as well as the intrinsic importance of the subject, will I am sure, justify me in bestowing at this time, a passing notice, on a claim preferred by Ohio, with many other States in the Union, the adjustment of which, though at one time on the point of completion, still remains a subject open for the consideration and final action of Congress.

Several years ago, Congress, by very full majorities in both branches, passed an act providing for distributing the moneys arising from the sale of the public lands among the States. This act was predicated upon the proposition that the public lands were held by Congress in trust; that the objects of the trust were specified in the deeds of cession comprehending these lands; that these deeds of cession were compact; that the parties to these compacts had agreed that the lands so ceded should be sold by the General Government, and the moneys arising from the sale should be appropriated to the payment of the then national debt, and then the remainder should be distributed amongst the several States of the Union in a specified proportion. At the time of the passage of this bill the national debt was entirely extinguished, and it was believed by Congress that the contingency had occurred, upon which the distribution among the States should commence. This argument, derived from the notion of a compact embracing the subject matter of the bill, did not comprehend that portion of the public domain embraced within the purchase of Louisiana and Florida, ceded directly to the General Government, by France and Spain respectively.

The propriety of subjecting this last class to the principle of distribution, was founded on a variety of considerations. It was believed by many, whose opinions are entitled to great consideration, that the public domain was not properly, nor even should be, considered a source of revenue to the national treasury. A belief then prevailed, to such extent as to amount to almost universal admission, that under any properly adjusted system

of import duties on foreign goods, the moneys arising from that source would be always equal to the wants of the General Government in time of peace, whilst those wants should be limited by that strict economy and republican simplicity which should always characterize the institutions of a free people. The principles of administration, then and since avowed by the General Government, also give to this claim of the states an equity which, under other circumstances, might not so clearly appear. With very few exceptions, the General Government will expend no money out of the national treasury for the internal improvement of the country. This necessarily left the whole expense of prosecuting a system of internal improvement to be borne by the States, and for which the States have on rated debts that bear heavily upon their citizens, in the shape of direct taxes. Many of the works thus undertaken, were of a character truly national, and demanded alike by the enterprising spirit of the age, and the true interests of the whole country. In the same spirit of enlightened patriotism, and believing that our institutions are based upon equality, and that every such system implies equality in knowledge, and the means of attaining to it as nearly as possible; systems of common school education, carrying its benefits alike to the high and the lowly, the rich and the poor, have been adopted by many of the States. These impose additional taxes upon the people of the States, which, though as yet cheerfully paid, I am proud to declare, in our State, do nevertheless go to promote objects of vital import, as well to the nation collectively, as the States, considered in their separate and sovereign character. Against any appropriation for this great and essentially national object, the doors of the Federal treasury have been, and probably in all time to come will remain, forever closed. These and other kindred considerations brought Congress, the legitimate trustees of the fund, to the conclusion that it should be distributed amongst the States. The Federal representation of each was assumed as the most equitable rule of distribution, and adopted accordingly.

It would seem that the justice and propriety of conceding this claim to the States, should not now be a question. By the passage of the act to which I refer, Congress, the proper trustees of the fund, and the only legitimate guardians of the national treasury, has acknowledged the right, and given its sanction to the expediency of the measure. The reason, and the only reason, why we are not at this moment in the enjoyment of our proportion of this rich fund, is to be found in the fact, that the President, then in the Executive Chair, refused his assent to the bill for that purpose; thus, by the will of one man, nullifying the combined resolves of the representatives of both the people and the States. It is a singular fact, and worthy our attention, as illustrating the operation of the veto power of the President, and the influence it gives to the opinion of one man, over the many, that a majority of the sovereign States of the Union, have, at various times, insisted on the distribution of this fund, as a matter of policy, and many of them as a matter of positive right, and Congress, in pursuance of this undoubted expression of the wishes of the States and people, enacted a law; and yet, by the simple interpretation of the will of one other branch of the Government, the will and power of the people and the States are rendered of no effect.

Neither duty nor inclination invite me to bring to your notice all these subjects to which your attention has been called by my predecessor, in the proper discharge of his duties; yet, in the present condition of our affairs as a State, and in view of the onerous taxation, which is continued for some time to press heavily upon the People, I have thought it my imperative duty, at the earliest proper moment to solicit your attention to this subject.

It is scarcely possible to suggest an idea touching the proper revenues of the State, or our prospects as a people, without associating with these, in our thoughts, the condition of that currency which is the measure of value, to all property and labor, and which, therefore, may be considered as one of the indispensable elements of a social state of existence. Wherever society has advanced to the point where there is such a division of labor, as that the products of one become necessary to another, there some representative of the value of such exchangeable commodities has been invented. As our community advances in population, and multiplies the variety and quantity of its productions, this representative value also increases in amount, so that a ready and convenient transfer of the labor of one portion to another, without the slow and, in many instances, impracticable process of barter between the individuals of a thriving and industrious community, with ample means

to apply its labor to future acquisitions, has been found, there the proceeds of the labor in the future have supplied the place of this medium of exchange, in the form of credit; and this last has, by experience, been found, in general, so safe, that in government where a stable order of things prevails, and the rights of the citizens are well protected, it has obtained universal prevalence. Amongst the inventions of nations most commercial, and farthest advanced in civilization, to supply this medium of trade, banks of circulation, as modern institutions of the sort are called, have borne a conspicuous part. After the experience of hundreds of years, since their first appearance, they still survive, and may be said at this time, to be more prevalent than at any former period. So thoroughly have these institutions been wrought into the texture of the affairs of the world, that they have even in our country, been chartered and sustained by the common consent of those who differed widely on every other great question of public policy. It is not now, therefore, a question whether banks shall continue amongst us in Ohio; but only, under what modifications and restrictions, they shall be permitted to live. With three or four exceptions, the charters of all the banks in Ohio will expire in two years from this time. They have, I believe, at this time a debt due them, which in the aggregate amounts to about ten millions of dollars. If their charters are not to be renewed, then it is not merely the dictate of prudence, but the command of necessity, that they should cease to make further issues, and by every proper means endeavor to collect their debts, and close finally their entire business. Should the great current almost ruinous, which has taken place in the circulation of the banks of this State, within the last eighteen months be followed by the collection of the debts due the banks, while their capital remains unemployed, it must produce a state of things in this country which has never been paralleled by any of those contingencies in trade, or unusual expansions and contractions in banking, which in former times we have had occasion to deplore. With the present legislature it remains to determine whether the permanent interests of the State are to be promoted by encountering such a crisis.

As the establishment of some permanent system of banking in this State devolves on the Legislature, and as that responsibility and labor must be encountered now, and as the subject is one of such pervading and deep moment, I have thought that my duty would not be discharged without adding my recommendation to the universal expectation of the people, that it should receive your early and most anxious consideration. I am aware that the subject has been, and is considered one of great difficulty in theory, and hazardous in practice.

If we analyze all the objections to banks as instruments for furnishing a currency, it will be found that they resolve themselves mainly into two, which are said in practice to be the natural results of the system.

In the first place, it is said that banks use the credit which their charters give them to extend the circulation of their paper; that either from imprudent management, or from fraudulent motives, they at times refuse to pay gold or silver for their notes; that this depreciates the value of their paper, and to the extent, more or less, such depreciation, occasion a loss to the holders of their bills. That instances have occurred in the past history of banks, to warrant this opinion, no one can deny. But it is not true, that this has been either an invariable or general consequence of our system of banking. The occurrences upon which this objection is founded, have been occasional, with chartered institutions, and not general. If we compare the losses sustained by the community, from the partial and total failures of incorporated banks to redeem their promises, with the failures and bankruptcies of individuals engaged in trade, to the same extent, we shall find the latter exceed those of the former class by an almost incalculable sum. That banks under the management of men, like all others of our race, not perfect, either in integrity or wisdom, have sometimes failed, is a fact not less rationally inferred, from the imperfection of all human institutions, than it is clearly shown, by historical fact. It could not be expected that any contrivance of man, would always and invariably, produce the good, and nothing else, which it was designed to effect. Our admirable system of government sometimes, through the wilful delinquency of those to whose care it is entrusted, fails to bring us all the blessings it is calculated to bestow; yet, for these occasional failures, no American statesman thinks of abandoning our system of republican liberty, and going back to the royal or despotic governments of former times, for a better state of things. If the community were deprived